

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

5 1. A merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
merge user information providing means comprising
plural user information providing means providing
information regarding a user as subordinate user
10 information providing means,

 said merge information providing apparatus
acquiring said information regarding said user from
said user information providing means and providing
said acquired information regarding said user with
15 merging.

20 2. The merge information providing
apparatus of as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
merge information providing apparatus comprises:
 user information acquisition means for
acquiring said information regarding said user from
25 said user information providing means; and

user information merging means for merging
said information regarding said user acquired in said
user information acquisition means.

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3. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said user
10 information acquisition means acquires said
information regarding said user from said user
information providing means by using first use
permission information permitting the use of said
user information providing means.

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4. The merge information providing
20 apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising
use permission information acquisition means for
acquiring said first use permission information from
said user information providing means.

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5. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
use permission information creation means for
creating second use permission information that
5 permits the use of said merge user information
providing means.

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6. The merge information providing
apparatus of the claim 5, wherein said use permission
information creation means creates said second use
permission information including said first use
15 permission information by using said first use
permission information.

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7. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
setting means for setting up said subordinate user
information providing means according to a request.

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8. A merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
merge user information providing means comprising
plural user information providing means providing
5 information regarding a user and further providing a
certification service regarding said user as
subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus
acquiring said information regarding said user from
10 said user information providing means and providing
said acquired information regarding said user with
merging.

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9. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
user information acquisition means for
20 acquiring said information regarding said user from
said user information providing means; and
user information merging means for merging
said information regarding said user acquired in said
user information acquisition means.

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10. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said user
information acquisition means acquires said
information regarding said user from said user
5 information providing means by using first use
permission information permitting the use of said
user information providing means.

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11. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising
use permission information acquisition means for
15 acquiring said first use permission information from
said user information providing means.

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12. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising
use permission information creation means for
25 creating second use permission information that

permits the use of said merge user information
providing means.

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13. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said use
permission information creation means creates said
10 second use permission information including said
first use permission information by using said first
use permission information.

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14. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising
setting means for setting up said subordinate user
20 information providing means according to a request.

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15. The merge information providing

apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising
certification information acquisition means for
acquiring first certification information certifying
certification of said user in said user information
5 providing means, from said user information providing
means.

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16. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 15, further comprising
second certification information creation means for
creating second certification information containing
15 therein said first certification information and
certifying certification of said user in said merge
user information providing means by using said first
certification information.

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17. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising
25 user distinction information acquisition means for

acquiring user distinction information that distinguishes said user from said user information providing means.

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18. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said user distinction information acquisition means acquires said user distinction information from said user information providing means by using first certification information included in said second certification information.

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19. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means for providing information regarding a user,

said user information providing means providing information regarding a designated user in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information

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providing means comprising said user information
providing means and other user information providing
means as subordinate user information providing means,
to said merge user information providing means.

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20. The information providing apparatus as
10 claimed in claim 19, wherein said user information
providing means further comprises user information
saving means for saving said information regarding
said user.

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21. The information providing apparatus as
claimed in claim 19, wherein said information
20 regarding said user is user information and/or group
information of a group to which said user belong, and
wherein said group information includes user
information and/or group information of other user
information providing means.

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22. The information providing apparatus
having user information providing means providing
information regarding a user and further a
certification service regarding said user,

5 said user information providing means
providing information regarding a designated user in
response to a request from a merge user information
providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising said user information
10 providing means and other user information providing
means as subordinate user information providing means,
to said merge user information providing means.

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23. The information providing apparatus as
claimed in claim 22, wherein said user information
providing means further comprises user information
20 saving means for saving said information regarding
said user.

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24. The information providing apparatus as
claimed in claim 22, wherein said information
regarding said user is user information and/or group
information of a group to which said user belongs,
5 and wherein said group information includes user
information and/or group information of other user
information providing means.

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25. A managing apparatus, comprising:
a merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
15 merge user information providing means comprising
plural user information providing means providing
information regarding a user as subordinate user
information providing means, and
setup request transmission means for
20 transmitting a request regarding a set up of said
subordinate user information providing means,
said merge information providing apparatus
acquiring said information regarding said user from
said user information providing means and providing
25 said acquired information regarding said user with

merging.

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26. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said information regarding said user from
10 said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

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27. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said user information acquisition
20 means acquires said information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting the use of said user information providing means.

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28. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 27, further comprising
use permission information acquisition means for
acquiring said first use permission information from
5 said user information providing means.

10 29. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 25, further comprising use permission
information creation means for creating second use
permission information that permits the use of said
merge user information providing means.

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30. The managing apparatus of the claim 29,
20 wherein said use permission information creation
means creates said second use permission information
including said first use permission information by
using said first use permission information.

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31. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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32. A managing apparatus, comprising:

10 a merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and further providing a
15 certification service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means; and

 setup request transmission means for transmitting a request regarding setting up of said subordinate user information providing means,

20 said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means and providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

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33. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means for merging said information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

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34. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting the use of said user information providing means.

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35. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 34, further comprising use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said

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first use permission information from said user
information providing means.

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36. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 32, further comprising use permission
information creation means for creating second use
10 permission information that permits the use of said
merge user information providing means.

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37. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 36, wherein said use permission information
creation means creates said second use permission
information including said first use permission
20 information by using said first use permission
information.

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38. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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39. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising certification information acquisition means for acquiring first certification information certifying certification of said user in said user information providing means, from said user information providing means.

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40. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 39, further comprising second certification information creation means for creating second certification information containing therein said first certification information and certifying certification of said user in said merge user information providing means by using said first

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certification information.

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41. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 32, further comprising user distinction
information acquisition means for acquiring user
10 distinction information that distinguishes said user
from said user information providing means.

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42. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 41, wherein said user distinction information
acquisition means acquires said user distinction
information from said user information providing
20 means by using first certification information
included in said second certification information.

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43. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 42, further comprising setting screen display
means for displaying a screen for setting said merge
user information providing means and said subordinate
5 user information providing means.

10 44. A merge information providing method in
merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising plural
user information providing means providing
information regarding a user as subordinate user
15 information providing means, said method comprising
the steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user
from user information providing means; and
providing said acquired information
20 regarding said user with merging.

25 45. A merge information providing method in

merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising plural
user information providing means providing
information regarding a user as subordinate user
5 information providing means and further a
certification service regarding said user, said
method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means; and
10 providing said information regarding said
user with merging.

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46. An information providing method in user
information providing means, said user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user, said method comprising:

20 a user information offer providing step for
providing, in response to a request from a merge user
information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate user
25 information providing means, information regarding a

designated user to said merge user information
providing means.

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47. An information providing method in user
information providing means, said user information
providing means providing information regarding a
10 user and a certification service regarding said user,
said method comprising:

a user information providing step for
providing, in response to a request from a merge user
information providing means, said merge user
15 information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate user
information providing means, information regarding a
designated user to said merge user information
20 providing means.

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48. A managing method in merge user

information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
information providing means providing information
regarding a user as subordinate user information
5 providing means, said method comprising the steps of:
acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means;
providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and
10 transmitting a set up request requesting
for a set up of said subordinate user information
providing means.

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49. A managing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
20 information providing means providing information
regarding a user and a certification service
regarding said user as subordinate user information
providing means, said method comprising the steps of:
acquiring said information regarding said
25 user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and
transmitting a set up request regarding a
set up of said subordinate user information providing
5 means.

10 50. A computer-implemented method for
providing merge information in merge user information
providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising plural user information
providing means providing information regarding a
15 user as subordinate user information providing means,
said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user
from user information providing means; and
providing said acquired information
20 regarding said user with merging.

25 51. A computer-implemented method of

providing merge information in merge user information
providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising plural user information
providing means providing information regarding a
5 user as subordinate user information providing means
and further a certification service regarding said
user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means; and
10 providing said information regarding said
user with merging.

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52. A computer-implemented method of
information in user information providing means, said
user information providing means providing
information regarding a user, said method comprising:
20 a user information offer providing step for
providing, in response to a request from a merge user
information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate user
25 information providing means, information regarding a

designated user to said merge user information
providing means.

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53. A computer-implemented method of
providing information in user information providing
means, said user information providing means
10 providing information regarding a user and a
certification service regarding said user, said
method comprising:

a user information providing step for
providing, in response to a request from a merge user
15 information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate user
information providing means, information regarding a
20 designated user to said merge user information
providing means.

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54. A computer-implemented method of
managing in merge user information providing means,
said merge user information providing means
comprising plural user information providing means
5 providing information regarding a user as subordinate
user information providing means, said method
comprising the steps of:
acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means;
10 providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and
transmitting a set up request requesting
for a set up of said subordinate user information
providing means.

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55. A computer-implemented method of
20 managing in merge user information providing means,
said merge user information providing means
comprising plural user information providing means
providing information regarding a user and a
certification service regarding said user as
25 subordinate user information providing means, said

method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information

5 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a
set up of said subordinate user information providing
means.

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56. A processor-readable medium storing
program code for providing merge information in merge
15 user information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
information providing means providing information
regarding a user as subordinate user information
providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

20 acquiring information regarding said user
from user information providing means; and

providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

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57. A processor-readable medium storing
program code for providing merge information in merge
user information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
5 information providing means providing information
regarding a user as subordinate user information
providing means and further a certification service
regarding said user, said method comprising the steps
of:

10 acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means; and
 providing said information regarding said
user with merging.

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58. A processor-readable medium storing
program code for providing information in user
20 information providing means, said user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user, said method comprising:

 a user information offer providing step for
providing, in response to a request from a merge user
25 information providing means comprising said user

information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate user
information providing means, information regarding a
designated user to said merge user information
5 providing means.

10 59. A processor-readable medium storing
program code for providing information in user
information providing means, said user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user and a certification service regarding said user,
15 said method comprising:
a user information providing step for
providing, in response to a request from a merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising said user
20 information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate user
information providing means, information regarding a
designated user to said merge user information
providing means.

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60. A processor-readable medium storing
program code for managing in merge user information
providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising plural user information
5 providing means providing information regarding a
user as subordinate user information providing means,
said method comprising the steps of:
acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means;
10 providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and
transmitting a set up request requesting
for a set up of said subordinate user information
providing means.
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61. A processor readable medium for storing
20 program code for managing in merge user information
providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising plural user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user and a certification service regarding said user
25 as subordinate user information providing means, said

method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said
user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information

5 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a
set up of said subordinate user information providing
means.

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62. A merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
15 merge user information providing means comprising
plural user information providing means providing
user information regarding a user as subordinate user
information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus
20 acquiring user information regarding a user
registered to the user information providing means of
which use is permitted and the same user registered
to other user information providing means, without
distinguishing the user by the user whether or not
25 the use of said information providing means is

permitted, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

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63. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, comprising:

10 distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said user information providing means;

 user information acquisition means for
15 acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

 user information merging means merging said user information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

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64. The merge information providing
25 apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said

distinction information managing means provides said
distinction information of said same user to said
user information acquisition means in response to a
request from said user information acquisition means.

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65. The merge information providing
10 apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said user
information acquisition means acquires said user
information regarding said user from said user
information providing means by using permission
information that permits the use of said distinction
15 information and said user information providing means.

20 66. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 62, further comprising
set up means for setting up said subordinate user
information providing means according to a request.

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67. A merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
merge user information providing means comprising
plural user information providing means providing
5 user information regarding a user and a certification
service regarding said user as subordinate user
information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus
acquiring user information regarding a user
10 registered to the user information providing means of
which use is permitted and/or certification is made
therein and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
the user by whether or not the use of the user
15 information providing means is permitted and/or the
certification is made, said merge information
providing apparatus providing said acquired
information regarding said user with merging.

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68. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 67, comprising:
25 distinction information managing means for

managing distinction information that distinguishes
said user is registered to said user information
providing means;

user information acquisition means for
5 acquiring said user information regarding said user
from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said
user information regarding said user acquired in said
user information acquisition means.

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69. The merge information providing
15 apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said
distinction information managing means provides said
distinction information of said same user to said
user information acquisition means according to a
request from said user information acquisition means.

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70. The merge information providing
25 apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said user

information acquisition means acquires said user
information regarding said user from said user
information providing means by using permission
information that permits the use of said distinction
5 information and said user information providing means.

10 71. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 67, further comprising
set up means for setting up said subordinate user
information providing means according to a request.

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72. A merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
20 merge user information providing means comprising
main user information providing means and sub user
information providing means providing user
information regarding a user and a certification
service regarding said user as subordinate user
25 information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus
acquiring user information regarding a user
registered to the user information providing means of
which use is permitted and/or certification is made
5 therein and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
the user by whether or not the use of the user
information providing means is permitted and/or the
certification is made, said merge information
10 providing apparatus providing said acquired
information regarding said user with merging.

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73. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprises
certification information acquisition means for
acquiring first certification information that
20 certifies said user in said main user information
providing means from said main user information
providing means.

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74. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 73, further comprising
second certification information creation means for
creating second certification information that
5 certifies said user in said merge user information
providing means and including said first
certification information, by using said first
certification information acquired in said
certification information acquisition means.

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75. The merge information providing
15 apparatus as claimed in claim 74, further comprising
second certification information providing means for
providing said second certification information to a
client requesting said certification.

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76. The merge information providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprising
25 set up means for setting up said subordinate user

information providing means according to a request.

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77. An information providing apparatus
having user information providing means, said user
information providing means providing information
regarding a user,

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said user information providing means
providing information regarding said user
corresponding to said distinction information that
distinguishes said user registered to said
information providing means and/or other user

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information providing means to merge user information
providing means in response to a request from said
merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means including said user
information providing means and other user

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information providing means as subordinate user
information providing means.

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78. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, further comprising user information providing means for saving said information regarding the said user.

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79. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belongs, said group information including user information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

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80. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and a certification service regarding said user,

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said user information providing means

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comprising user information providing means for
providing, in response to a request from merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising said user
5 information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate user
information providing means, information regarding a
user corresponding to distinction information that
distinguishes said user registered to said user
10 information providing means and/or other user
information providing means, to said merge user
information providing means.

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81. The information providing apparatus as
claimed in claim 78, wherein said user information
providing means further comprising user information
20 saving means for saving said information regarding to
said user.

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82. The information providing apparatus as
claimed in claim 80, wherein said information
regarding said user comprises user information and/or
group information about a group to which said user
5 belongs, said group information including user
information and/or group information of other user
information providing means.

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83. A managing apparatus, comprising:
merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
15 merge user information providing means comprising
plural user information providing means providing
user information regarding a user as subordinate user
information providing means; and
setup request transmission means for
20 transmitting information regarding set up of said
subordinate user information providing means,
said merge information providing apparatus
acquiring user information regarding a user
registered to the user information providing means of
25 which use is permitted and the same user registered

to other user information providing means, without
distinguishing the user by the user information
providing means of which use is permitted, said merge
information providing apparatus providing said
5 acquired information regarding said user with merging.

10 84. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 83, comprising:

distinction information managing means for
managing distinction information that distinguishes
said user is registered to said user information
15 providing means;

user information acquisition means for
acquiring said user information regarding said user
from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said
20 user information regarding said user acquired in said
user information acquisition means.

85. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 83, wherein said distinction information
managing means provides said distinction information
of said same user to said user information
5 acquisition means in response to a request from said
user information acquisition means.

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86. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 83, wherein said user information acquisition
means acquires said user information regarding said
user from said user information providing means by
15 using permission information that permits the use of
said distinction information and said user
information providing means.

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87. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 83, further comprising set up means for setting
up said subordinate user information providing means
25 according to a request.

88. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, further comprising setup screen display means for displaying a screen for setting up said merge user information providing means and said
5 subordinate user information providing means.

10 89. A managing apparatus, comprising:
a merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing
15 user information regarding a user and a certification service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means; and
setup request transmission means for transmitting information regarding to set up of
20 subordinate user information providing means,
said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or certification is made
25 therein and the same user registered to other user

information providing means, without distinguishing
the user by whether or not the use of the user
information providing means is permitted and/or the
certification is made, said merge information
5 providing apparatus providing said acquired
information regarding said user with merging.

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90. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 89, comprising:

distinction information managing means for
managing distinction information that distinguishes
15 said user is registered to said user information
providing means;

user information acquisition means for
acquiring said user information regarding said user
from said user information providing means; and

20 user information merging means merging said
user information regarding said user acquired in said
user information acquisition means.

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91. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 90, wherein said distinction information
managing means provides said distinction information
of said same user to said user information
5 acquisition means according to a request from said
user information acquisition means.

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92. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 90, wherein said user information acquisition
means acquires said user information regarding said
user from said user information providing means by
15 using permission information that permits the use of
said distinction information and said user
information providing means.

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93. The managing apparatus providing
apparatus as claimed in claim 89, further comprising
set up means for setting up said subordinate user
25 information providing means according to a request.

94. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 89, further comprising setup screen display
means for displaying a screen for setting up said
merge user information providing means and said
5 subordinate user information providing means.

10 95. A managing apparatus, comprising:
a merge information providing apparatus
having merge user information providing means, said
merge user information providing means comprising
main user information providing means and sub user
15 information providing means providing user
information regarding a user and a certification
service regarding said user as subordinate user
information providing means; and
setup request transmission means for
20 transmitting information regarding set up of said
subordinate user information providing means,
said merge information providing apparatus
acquiring user information regarding a user
registered to the user information providing means of
25 which use is permitted and/or the certification is

made therein and the same user registered to other
user information providing means, without
distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of
the user information providing means is permitted
5 and/or the certification is made, said merge
information providing apparatus providing said
acquired information regarding said user with merging.

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96. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 95, further comprises certification information
acquisition means for acquiring first certification
15 information that certifies said user in said main
user information providing means from said main user
information providing means.

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97. The managing apparatus as claimed in
claim 96, further comprising second certification
information creation means for creating second
25 certification information that certifies said user in

said merge user information providing means and including said first certification information, by using said first certification information acquired in said certification information acquisition means.

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98. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 96, further comprising second certification information providing means for providing said second certification information to a client requesting said certification.

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99. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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100. A merge user information providing

25

method in merge user information providing means,
said merge user information providing means
comprising plural user information providing means
providing information regarding a user as subordinate
5 user information providing means, comprising the
steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and the same user
10 registered to other user information providing means,
without distinguishing said user by whether or not
the use of said user information providing means is
permitted; and

providing said acquired information
15 regarding said user with merging.

20 101. A merge user information providing
method in merge user information providing means,
said merge user information providing means
comprising plural user information providing means
providing information regarding a user and a
25 certification service regarding said user as

subordinate user information providing means,
comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
5 of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
information providing means is permitted; and
10 providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

15

102. A merge user information providing
method in merge user information providing means,
said merge user information providing means
comprising main user information providing means and
20 sub user information providing means providing
information regarding a user and a certification
service regarding said user as subordinate user
information providing means, comprising the steps of:
acquiring information regarding a user
25 registered to said user information providing means

of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
5 information providing means is permitted; and
providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

10

103. An information providing method in
user information providing means, said user
information providing means providing information
15 regarding a user, comprising the step of:
providing, in response to a request from
merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
20 information providing means as subordinate
information providing means, information regarding a
user corresponding to distinction information
registered to said user information providing means
and/or other user information providing means for
25 distinguishing said user to said merge user

information providing means.

5

104. An information providing method in
user information providing means, said user
information providing means providing information
regarding a user and a certification service
10 regarding said user, said method comprising the step
of:

providing, in response to a request from
merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising said user
15 information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate
information providing means, information regarding a
user corresponding to distinction information
registered to said user information providing means
20 and/or other user information providing means for
distinguishing said user, to said merge user
information providing means.

25

105. A managing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
information providing means providing information
5 regarding a user as subordinate user information
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and the same user
10 registered to other user information providing means,
without distinguishing said user by whether or not
the use of said user information providing means is
permitted;

providing said acquired information
15 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.

20

106. A managing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
25 information providing means providing information

regarding a user and a certification service
regarding said user as subordinate user information
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
5 registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
10 information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.

15

20 107. A managing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising main user
information providing means and sub user information
providing means providing information regarding a
25 user and a certification service regarding said user

as subordinate user information providing means,
comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
5 of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
information providing means is permitted;

10 providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.

15

108. A computer-implemented merge user
information providing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
20 information providing means providing information
regarding a user as subordinate user information
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
25 of which use is permitted and the same user

registered to other user information providing means,
without distinguishing said user by whether or not
the use of said user information providing means is
permitted; and

5 providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

10

109. A computer-implemented merge user
information providing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
information providing means comprising plural user
15 information providing means providing information
regarding a user and a certification service
regarding said user as subordinate user information
providing means, comprising the steps of:

 acquiring information regarding a user
20 registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
25 information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

5

110. A computer-implemented merge user
information providing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
10 information providing means comprising main user
information providing means and sub user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user and a certification service regarding said user
as subordinate user information providing means,
15 comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
20 information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

25

111. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

5 providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate

10 information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user

15 information providing means.

20 112. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and a certification service regarding said user, said method comprising

25 the step of:

providing, in response to a request from
merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
5 information providing means as subordinate
information providing means, information regarding a
user corresponding to distinction information
registered to said user information providing means
and/or other user information providing means for
10 distinguishing said user, to said merge user
information providing means.

15

113. A computer-implemented managing method
in merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising plural
user information providing means providing
20 information regarding a user as subordinate user
information providing means, comprising the steps of:
acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and the same user
25 registered to other user information providing means,

without distinguishing said user by whether or not
the use of said user information providing means is
permitted;

providing said acquired information
5 regarding said user with merging; and
transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.

10

114. A computer-implemented managing method
in merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising plural
15 user information providing means providing
information regarding a user and a certification
service regarding said user as subordinate user
information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
20 registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
25 information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and
transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.

5

115. A computer-implemented managing method
10 in merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising main user
information providing means and sub user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user and a certification service regarding said user
15 as subordinate user information providing means,
comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
20 been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information
25 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.

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116. A processor-readable medium storing a
program code for providing merge user information in
merge user information providing means, said merge
10 user information providing means comprising plural
user information providing means providing
information regarding a user as subordinate user
information providing means, comprising the steps of:
acquiring information regarding a user
15 registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and the same user
registered to other user information providing means,
without distinguishing said user by whether or not
the use of said user information providing means is
20 permitted; and
providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

25

117. A processor-readable medium storing
program code for providing merge user information in
merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising plural
5 user information providing means providing
information regarding a user and a certification
service regarding said user as subordinate user
information providing means, comprising the steps of:
acquiring information regarding a user
10 registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
15 information providing means is permitted; and
providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

20

118. A processor-readable medium for
providing merge user information in merge user
information providing means, said merge user
25 information providing means comprising main user

information providing means and sub user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user and a certification service regarding said user
as subordinate user information providing means,
5 comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
10 information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
information providing means is permitted; and
providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

15

119. A processor-readable medium for
20 providing information in user information providing
means, said user information providing means
providing information regarding a user, comprising
the step of:

providing, in response to a request from
25 merge user information providing means, said merge

user information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate
information providing means, information regarding a
5 user corresponding to distinction information
registered to said user information providing means
and/or other user information providing means for
distinguishing said user to said merge user
information providing means.

10

120. A processor-readable medium storing
15 program code for providing information in user
information providing means, said user information
providing means providing information regarding a
user and a certification service regarding said user,
said method comprising the step of:

20 providing, in response to a request from
merge user information providing means, said merge
user information providing means comprising said user
information providing means and other user
information providing means as subordinate
25 information providing means, information regarding a

user corresponding to distinction information
registered to said user information providing means
and/or other user information providing means for
distinguishing said user, to said merge user
5 information providing means.

10 121. A processor-readable medium for
managing in merge user information providing means,
said merge user information providing means
comprising plural user information providing means
providing information regarding a user as subordinate
15 user information providing means, comprising the
steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and the same user
20 registered to other user information providing means,
without distinguishing said user by whether or not
the use of said user information providing means is
permitted;

providing said acquired information
25 regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.

5

122. A processor-readable medium for
managing in merge user information providing means,
said merge user information providing means
10 comprising plural user information providing means
providing information regarding a user and a
certification service regarding said user as
subordinate user information providing means,
comprising the steps of:

15 acquiring information regarding a user
registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
20 said user by whether or not the use of said user
information providing means is permitted;
 providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and
 transmitting a request regarding setup of
25 said subordinate information providing means.

123. A processor-readable medium for
managing method merge user information providing
means, said merge user information providing means
comprising main user information providing means and
5 sub user information providing means providing
information regarding a user and a certification
service regarding said user as subordinate user
information providing means, comprising the steps of:
acquiring information regarding a user
10 registered to said user information providing means
of which use is permitted and/or certification has
been made and the same user registered to other user
information providing means, without distinguishing
said user by whether or not the use of said user
15 information providing means is permitted;
providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging; and
transmitting a request regarding setup of
said subordinate information providing means.